The Semaphore

A PUBLICATION OF TELEGRAPH HILL DWELLERS

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TELEGRAPH HILL DWELLERS

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Cover: "City Lights," a lithographic crayon drawing by Redo. For other Redo depictions of North Beach, please visit his Web site at *www.redosegos.com*.

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The Semaphore is a publication of the Telegraph Hill Dwellers for its members. Articles, except for the summary of Board of Directors' Motions, do not necessarily reflect the official position of the Association or its Officers, but are the opinions of the writers of the individual signed articles. The Association can take no responsibility for their content. This membership publication is not to be reprinted or disseminated without written permission.

A Letter to the THD Membership

Dear fellow THD member:

At the June meeting of the THD Board of Directors, the Board discussed the subject of political endorsements and the proper role of our organization during this election year. The Board reaffirmed strongly our policy that as a non-profit organization we cannot and do not endorse any individual candidate in any election. Moreover, the sentiment of the Board was clear that THD as an organization may in no way express official preference or favoritism toward any candidate for any office. THD has long abided by that strict policy, and we shall continue to do so.

With that said, it was pointed out that a number of THD members, including at least one officer, are themselves candidates for the San Francisco Board of Supervisors in this November's election. In fact, it seems that the new District Elections process has already achieved at least one of its goals: we have a number of neighborhood candidates for the District 3 seat on the Board of Supervisors. As an organization, THD's mission is to represent the interests of neighborhood residents, so we can only be pleased that our members are taking the step of running for office to extend that representation in City Hall.

It is a reflection of the vitality of THD that among our membership are several leading candidates for the District 3 seat. Each of them has already, in the course of the early campaign, made public mention of the fact that they are associated with Telegraph Hill Dwellers; it is understandable that the candidates want potential voters to know of their community activities, and we see nothing wrong or improper with that. Indeed, the THD Board is proud that a tie to THD is seen as such a positive attribute, and THD looks forward to our interactions with the candidates into the fall campaign as the candidates endeavor to lay out their neighborhood agendas. We certainly won't be asking that they keep their THD involvement a secret!

The Board has reiterated its policy of not endorsing any candidate in this race, but also has decided to monitor the District 3 campaign to ensure that no improper representations are made of THD support or endorsement. Simply being a member (or officer) of THD is a fair statement for a candidate to make, but we will not allow any further claim of favoritism or support.

If you have any questions or comments about the Board's policy, please feel free either to call any Board member or to bring them up at our next meeting, October 10.

—The THD Board of Directors

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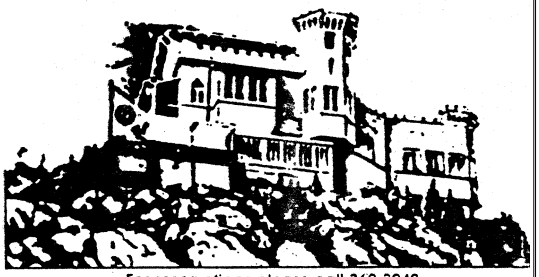

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PRESIDENT'S LETTER

photo by Jason Doiy

Aaron Peskin

I am sad to report that three of our members passed away this summer.

THD member and tenant activist Clifford Ghames passed away on July 29 at the age of 68. Clifford was immersed in local politics, a genteel man and a tenacious fighter who always worked to improve life in the neighborhood, especially for residents of the Single Room Occupancy hotels. Clifford will be missed by his many friends and neighbors on Telegraph Hill and at the Swiss Hotel on Broadway where he lived.

Founding THD member George Rockrise passed away on July 7 at the age of 83. A renowned Bay Area architect, landscape architect and urban planner, George was a dominant figure on the Planning and Arts Commission under three San Francisco mayors.

Thomas "Lucky" Burton passed away on June 19 at the age of 79. He served as a pilot during World War II and later graduated from UCLA in with a degree in Engineering. He later returned to flying — both commercial and freight, as well as crop dusting and mail delivery. He loved to sail and was a member of the Treasure Island Yacht Club.

Our sympathy to the loved ones and friends of each of these three outstanding people.

*****

Three years ago, many of us gathered at a memorial to celebrate the incredible life of Freddie Kuh, the legendary Telegraph Hill entrepreneur who created North Beach's famed landmark restaurant the Old Spaghetti Factory Caffé.

Forty-five years ago, Fred leased a defunct pasta factory at 478 Green Street and turned it into the City's first bohemian cabaret/restaurant. In the heyday of the Beatnik period, the place was renowned not only for serving bargain-priced spaghetti but as an incubator for local artists, musicians and the North Beach flamenco scene.

continued on page 7

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continued from page 5

Documentary filmmakers William Farley and Malcolm & Sandra Sharpe have captured this great era of North Beach history in their recently completed film, "The Old Spaghetti Factory." THD was honored to sponsor a preview screening of the film on July 24 at the San Francisco Art Institute.

The event was a great North Beach happening. More than 300 Telegraph Hill Dwellers, North Beach denizens, former habitues of the Old Spaghetti Factory, many of whom were in the film, gathered and carried on and shared reminiscences. The film centers on the people in a painting by Kaffe Fassett (currently on loan to Enrico's Restaurant where it is prominently displayed), which Mal and Sandra discovered in a funky store in Berkeley. The film features delightful and funny interviews with North Beach artist Richard Whalen, flamenco dancer Ernesto Hernandez, photographer Jerry Stoll, Anchor Steam Brewing Company owner Fritz Maytag, poet Lawrence Ferlinghetti, and many others.

A very special thanks to Mark McCleod and Enrico's Restaurant for generously providing copious amounts of wine & cheese at the pre-screening party. I also want to acknowledge THD Social chair Pat Swan for putting the event together and Ella King Torrey and the Art Institute for making their great facilities available to the neighborhood.

Copies of the video are available for $20.00, with a portion of the proceeds benefiting the Hill Dwellers. If you are interested, please send THD a check for $20.00, addressed to P.O. Box 330159, San Francisco, CA 94133 or give me a call at 986-7014 to make arrangements to pick one up.

That the film-makers honored THD, not only by asking us to sponsor the screening but by donating to our organization a portion of the proceeds from the sale of each film, is a testament to our 45-year history of preserving the character and celebrating the artistic heritage of North Beach and Telegraph Hill. Thank you, Mal and Sandra Sharp and William Farley.

*****

The THD Board of Directors has decided to take a small leap into the publishing business. Well, not "business" in the money making sense -– we're moving forward with plans to republish David Myrick's *San Francisco's Telegraph Hill* — the definitive history of Telegraph Hill.

David Myrick, who resided on the Hill for 30 years, compiled its history in a 220- page, photograph-filled book published in 1972. The book has long been out of print and is hard to find. From time to time, copies turn up at rare-book stores, priced in the $100-$2000 range.

A year ago, when David came up from Santa Barbara to speak at a Hill Dwellers event, we discussed the possibility of republishing the book. David not only agreed, but offered to write a supplement to his original work. What's more, he said he had many more historical photographs that weren't included the 1972 edition and that deserve to see the light of day.

Enter Nancy Peters of City Lights Publishing and THD member Larry Habegger (publisher of the *Travelers' Tales* series). The results: THD and City Lights intend to co-publish a limited edition of the new and revised *San Francisco's Telegraph Hill* later this year. We're still working on the economics, but expect the 250-page, photo-filled volume to sell for about $35.00. We hope to be able to pre-sell copies at a discount to THD members. We'll be in touch in with you in the next couple of months to see if you are interested. The book will also be for sale at City Lights Bookstore. I think it will be a great benefit to the neighborhood.

PLANNING AND ZONING COMMITTEE REPORT

Here are a few updates and new projects to report since the Summer 2000 Semaphore. For more information, or to get involved in the Planning & Zoning Committee, call Nancy at 986-7070.

I. PROJECTS IN THE TELEGRAPH HILL HISTORIC DISTRICT

(In 1986, the Board of Supervisors established this historic district on the east side of Telegraph Hill to preserve the largest group of pre-1870 structures in the City.)

Grace Marchant Garden/Alta Street Development (20-30 Alta)

On June 21, in a room full of supporters of the Grace Marchant Garden, the Landmarks Board unanimously (8 to 0) rejected the developers' latest plan to build a 7,200-plus square foot single-family home at the end of Lower Alta Street. The developers have sought approval from the Landmarks Board several times since 1995 for a project that is much too massive for the site, would shade the Grace Marchant Garden, would cantilever out over the Sansome Street Cliffs, and be incompatible with nearby historic dwellings, all in violation of the Telegraph Hill Historic District Ordinance. Now, it is clear that if the developers want Landmarks Board approval, they will have to come back with a much scaled-down project.

241 Greenwich This 1898 cottage on the Greenwich Steps is currently undergoing rehabilitation according to plans approved by the Landmarks Board.

212 Union The construction of a new garage and underground passage is proceeding on the site of this pre-1880 Greek Revival cottage (which is being preserved). Plans were previously approved by the Landmarks Board and the Planning Commission.

290 Union Although the City is allowing the developer of this project to proceed with work on the front part of the building, it has stopped construction on the rear elevation because the work does not conform to approved plans and permits. At issue are a new balcony and chimney, not shown on approved plans, that would impair the light and views of an adjacent building at 1304-1/2 Montgomery. As to the front elevation, the conditions of project approval require a preservation architect to oversee the completion of the facade consistent with Landmarks Board approval.

II. PROJECTS IN THE NORTHEAST WATERFRONT HISTORIC DISTRICT

(In 1983, the Board of Supervisors established this historic warehouse district, which is bounded by The Embarcadero, Sansome, Broadway and Union Streets.)

The Round House/Embarcadero at Sansome and Lombard (City Landmark #114) Information Network Radio, the Port's new lessee, is proposing to add an antenna and mechanical equipment to the roof of this landmark building. Because the unique roof is one of the important historic features of this building, we are working with the Port and the lessee to come up with an alternative solution to avoid a major impact to this historic structure.

Low-Income Housing Project at Broadway and Battery The project sponsor, Chinatown Community Development Center (CCDC), and architect Solomon & Associates made a general conceptual presentation to the P & Z Committee. They did not present any designs. THD has assigned a representative to the CCDC's design review committee.

III. OTHER PROJECTS AND PLANS FOR THE WATERFRONT

Pier 45, Shed A As we have all read in the newspapers, the San Francisco Port Commission chose the proposed project, "San Francisco at the Wharf," a tourist theme park about San Francisco history, to be built by Cleveland's Malrite Company. A coalition of wharf businesses and environmental groups, together with the California State Coastal Conservancy, had presented the competing propos-

PLANNING AND ZONING

al called "The Bay Center." That project's mission is to foster and protect the wellbeing of the San Francisco Bay estuary, its Delta, its Pacific Ocean sanctuaries and their inhabitants, through exhibits, resource archives, educational programs and public forums. Because of the resulting public controversy, an initiative will appear on the November ballot to block the Malrite proposal and turn Pier 45, Shed A into a nonprofit bay-oriented education center.

Port Commission/BCDC Special Area Plan *(The San Francisco Waterfront Special Area Plan is the guide to future development along the City waterfront. It was adopted by the San Francisco Port Commission and the Bay Conservation and Development Commission.)*
As a result of hours of coordinated efforts by THD, SF Tomorrow, SF Architectural Heritage and numerous other members of the public, the Port Commission finally agreed to include two new provisions in the amended SF Waterfront Special Area Plan: a commitment to create a National Register Historic District along the waterfront within two years, and an agreement to provide a specified amount of public open space as a part of the development of Piers 27-29.

IV. NORTH BEACH NEIGHBORHOOD COMMERCIAL DISTRICT

(In 1987, the Board of Supervisors adopted the North Beach Neighborhood Commercial District (NBNCD) Ordinance to maintain the character of and mix of businesses in North Beach.)

1741 Powell Street (Murial's Theater) A groundbreaking ceremony with a crowd of spectators and speeches by Mayor Brown, Alicia Becerril and THD President Aaron Peskin was held on June 26th to celebrate the beginning of this project, sponsored by Doug Ahlers, to rehabilitate the facade of the old Pagoda Palace and convert it into a live theater

continued next page

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PLANNING AND ZONING

venue.

1351 Grant Avenue (formerly, Figone Hardware) The building owners are proceeding with their Ellis Act eviction of all 21 low-income residents who live in the upper stories of this building. Chinatown Community Development Center is working with the tenants and has asked the Planning Commission to reopen their previously approved Conditional Use Authorization for the downstairs bar. As a result of the large number of protests filed with the State Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC), the ABC has not approved the request for a new liquor license for the bar.

580 Green Street, at Stockton This building, formerly the site of Bank of the West, has been leased to CitiBank. The prohibition on new banks within this area does not apply in this case because this building was being used as a bank at the time the prohibition went into effect, and the use was not "abandoned" by being vacant for the requisite period of time.

430 Columbus Avenue (Calzone's) Calzone's has requested a Conditional Use Authorization to extend the hours of the restaurant's food service from 2 a.m. to 6 a.m. The proposal was set for hearing at the August 10th Planning Commission meeting.

V. NEIGHBORHOOD COMMERCIAL DISTRICT LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS

(The Board of Supervisors is currently considering the following amendments to the Neighborhood Commercial District (NCD) legislation.)

NCD Building Permit Notification:

A proposal to establish a public notice requirement for building permit applications in all NCDs.

Liquor Store Amendment:

A proposal to create "Liquor Store" as a new use category in all NCDs. Liquor stores now fall under the use category of "Other Retail." Under this proposal, new liquor stores in the North Beach, Broadway and Polk Street NCDs—including all stores selling off-sale beer, wine or hard liquor and stores where alcoholic beverages are not the dominant item—would require a Conditional Use Authorization from the Planning Commission.

New Findings Required for Reducing Off-Street Parking Requirements:

The Planning Commission is now authorized to approve reductions in off-street parking requirements for dwelling units in NCDs upon finding that such reductions are justified, given the anticipated auto usage of the project, and that the reduction will not be detrimental to the health, safety and general welfare of persons in the area. This proposal would require the Planning Commission to find, in addition, that the project is consistent with the existing character and pattern of development in the area and that the project is consistent with the description and intent of the NCD in which it is located.

VI. JACKSON SQUARE HISTORIC DISTRICT

(The Board of Supervisors established this historic district—the City's first—in 1972. The district is also listed on the National Register of Historic Places.)

700 Montgomery Street (Law Offices of Angela Alioto) Angela Alioto is pursuing a proposal to designate this historic 1905 building as a City landmark, in light of a rumored plan to demolish and replace it with a 14-story office tower. The proposed landmark designation is scheduled to be heard next by the Board of Supervisors' Land Use and Transportation Committee on in August .

722-724 and 726-728 Montgomery Street (Belli Building) Good News – Since we last reported that the owner's representatives argued to the Landmarks Board that the current condition of these two 1850s Landmark buildings (City Landmarks No. 9 and 10) would require demolishing significant parts and removing the facades brick by brick, a preservation architect (Architectural Resources Group) was retained who has figured out a way to retain the floor systems and structural components.

Efficient and Cheap E-Mail

Members of the Telegraph Hill Dwellers receive the Semaphore each quarter, and also receive postcard notices of special events every month or so.

The postcard notices require printing, 20 cents postage, as well as the printing and affixing of address labels, and then they are delivered when the Post Office gets around to it - costly and slow.

Last year we started sending these notices by email rather than postcards wherever possible. Every month THD Membership gets a few more email addresses and at present we are able to send email notices to 289 of our 588 members.

We have started sending an occasional email message to our members regarding important public meetings, such as the Landmarks Board hearing on the proposed Alta Street construction project. Because of the short advance notice postcards wouldn't have been possible, but we decided to notify as many members as possible, using email. As a result of this email notice, well over 50 THD members attended the hearing, and this turnout was an important factor in having the Landmarks Board turn down the developer's proposal.

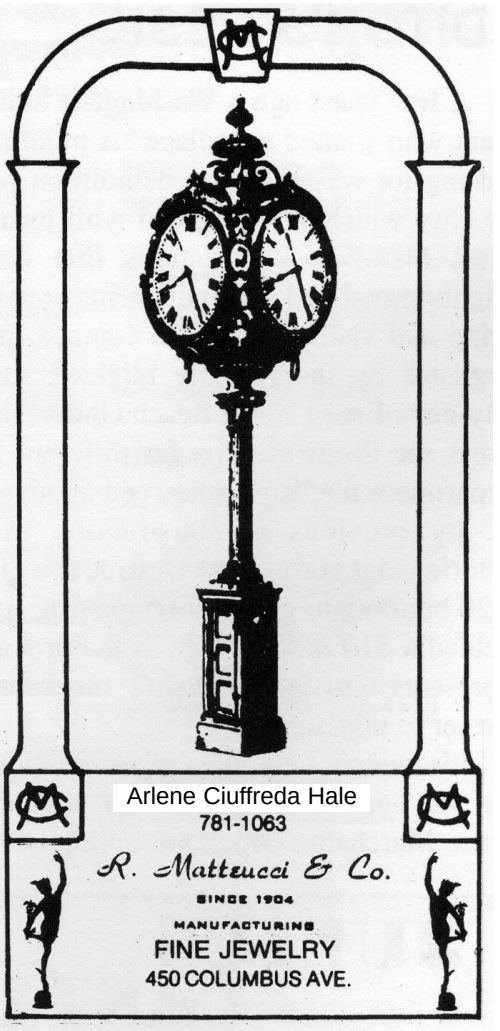
If you are still receiving postcards, and would prefer to receive email notifications instead, just send an email message to <membership@thd.org>. Of course, if you prefer postcards, that's fine too.

On the Mark

Friends of Mark Bittner will be happy to know that Mark and colleague Judy Irving are hard at work on the film they made of Mark and his life with our Telegraph Hill parrots. They expect to finish the project in about a year.

Mark has a new Web site at *http://sites.netscape.net/markbittner/index.htm* in which he writes about his work on the film and includes stunning parrot pictures.

He is still looking for a long-term housesitting position. You can contact him at 824-5822.



THIS AND THAT...Cruisin' the THD "Hood"

with Sheila Black

HOO-RAY! THDer and superdooper fire fighter, **Steve Harper,** reports that **S.F. Fire Dept. Station No. 28** at Stockton/Greenwich is not only back in full readiness to defend our neighborhood (after a year of displacement for long needed remodeling)...but has Medic Truck 28 in service, alongside old faithful Engine 28...not to mention appropriate new plumbing for fire fighting women. Now, that's progress, folks. Call 558-3228, if you can't help yourself from welcoming these very terrific "guys" back...with their enhancements.

EAGLE-EYED **June Osterberg** of Washington Square Bear Repair fame has turned her attention to the reassembly and reinstallation of the sadly felled and much missed **Matteucci clock** on Columbus Avenue. Keep posted for updates.

At least two THDers participated in the remarkable 3-DAY BREAST CANCER AWARENESS WALK from San Jose to San Francisco...I, who trudged every inch of 60+ miles, gaining admiration for the word "awesome".... and survivor volunteer, **Pat Lorentzen**, who handed out commemorative tee shirts and appreciative hugs to 3,000 bruised, blistered, beaming walkers as they entered Moscone Playground to the cheers and screams of welcoming supporters. Yes, Virginia, there are a lot of caring, brave, generous people out there.

HISTORY LIVES: **Nancy Shanahan** and **Aaron Peskin** were quite thrilled a few weeks ago when **Audrey Tomaselli** brought **Annie Guardino**, her niece, and grandniece to visit. Tears flowed, in fact. Mrs. Guardino, born on Filbert Street, had moved to #528 at age five. Her grandmother lived in the upper flat of the building now owned by Nancy and Aaron at #522. Seventy-five years ago, she remembered there was a clothesline stretched between the families' kitchens to transfer baskets of goodies back and forth. In a similarly emotional experience, **Chapin Coit**, whose great uncle's architectural legacy is our own Coit Tower, and his wife, **Barbara**, recently visited their home town of Buffalo, NY, where they stepped inside his great-great-grandfather's house...built in 1814 and now under restoration as an historic home and interpretive museum.

TIRED OF PIZZA AND PASTA? You've been saved. World-famous gospel singer/restaurateur **Emmit Powell** and former cable car bell champ turned S.F. police officer, **Carl Payne**, teamed up to bring genuine soul food (I kid you not) to North Beach. So...when you are really, really hungry and visions of biscuits 'n gravy and the tastiest fried chicken known to western man dance in your head, head out to **Powell's Place #2** at 708 Vallejo Street near Stockton.... a few doors down from Central Station. You'll leave with a smile on your chubby little face...and, possibly, with a few bits of grits clinging to your chin.

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On the Beat

By Officer James Gratz

Sometimes it's the little things that make a difference.

Case 000657441. June 2. 5:29 PM.

Thomas climbed aboard the "45" bus, number 5145, on Columbus, hoping for a quiet ride home.

Wilton, Chang, Robert, Jonny, Mark, and Steven were already on the bus, and they had a mission. Just as they had done in the past, they were going to cover bus 5145 with graffiti.

Ages 13-15, the boys were all San Francisco products, living in Chinatown and the Mission. They sat in the rear of the bus, shouting and throwing drinks on the seats, ceiling, and other passengers.

One of the kids pulled out a can of blue spray paint and began marking his logo everywhere he could reach. Armed with wide-tip felt pins, the others etched their marks on seats. Another scratched on the window with his grinder tool.

Thomas had seen enough. He yelled for the kids to stop. He got a can of soda thrown at his head in reply. Thomas was probably thinking, "Where's a cop when you need him?" when he saw Officers Im and Martinez at the bus stop.

All suspects were taken into custody and released to their parents. Photos of the damage, in the hundreds of dollars, and tools of the crime were booked as evidence.

It wasn't murder and it wasn't robbery. It was only malicious mischief. But the public should have the right to ride clean, safe buses.

Sometimes it's the little things that make a big difference in the quality of life.

At least that's the way I see it from down here On The Beat.

Next issue: What penalty is appropriate for these culprits? Was the "book" thrown at them, or were they "counseled"?

Editor's Note: Officer Gratz changed the names of all those involved in this case in order to protect their identities.

A pome

By John D. Dolan

Lo! The tourists are upon us,
spending money in funny clothes
and fussing about how to get
to those places
they've heard about for weeks.

And lo! persons who would if they could
spoil what we toil for and have —
40 years—are still embroiling
us in cases,
one by one, for more spaces.

But lo! also, don'tcha know
our neighborhood wears well?
Washington Square Park, lit up at night,
is swell
as are the restaurants where one can always bite
off more than one can chew, and bars to drink in,
cafes to think in, and streets to walk
and shops to shop in, talking.

There's no stopping progress
and yet—there's the sky above,
the busy stuff below, and in between familiar faces
smiling: outfacing progress.

The Poet's Gift of Light

By Mary Noyes

Today was not my first visit to City Lights Books. I've lived in the neighborhood two years and already have spent many hours there. Entering inside has always seemed a step back in time, as buildings go, maybe even into one in London or Paris or Rome. I like the place, the space – the dust, disorder and dark corners. I spent a couple of hours just wandering, from one level to another, scrutinizing the physical space, as the tourist in me does in a historic cathedral or at some ancient ruins. Bits of the building's historical past merged with the details of now and I understood why the place draws us in.

City Lights Bookstore will soon be designated San Francisco Historical Landmark. In June the Landmarks Advisory Board recommended the status for the building at 261 Columbus Avenue, which dates back to 1907. Evidence also suggests that parts of it could be even older. However, before it is official, the recommendation still needs the approval of the City Planning Commission and the Board of Supervisors.

As a cultural and social landmark the building's celebrity actually began in June 1953 when poet Lawrence Ferlinghetti and Peter D. Martin founded City Lights Books. Martin's idea was to open the country's first all-paperback bookstore to pay the rent for the second floor editorial offices of his magazine, *City Lights.* The name was taken from the film of Charlie Chaplin, whose Little Man has been a symbol of the subjective man against the world. Martin departed for New York in less than a year and Shigeyoshi Murao became manager and eventually co-owner with Ferlinghetti.

In 1955 Ferlinghetti launched City Lights Publishers from a little room upstairs with the Pocket Poets Series and, in the continuing spirit of the "subjective man against the world," still inspires "international, dissident, insurgent ferment" today. As he urges in the Introduction to the 1997 City Lights Pocket Anthology: "So may our little cultural exchange program continue into the 21st century in a world without walls in which poetry is still the best news."

To most of us who have ever been inside its venerable doors, though, the Historical Landmark identification will only serve to honor what we all feel about the place. Today spontaneity, irreverence, functionality — and conviction — rule as they always have. Black asphalt tile at the entrance segues into checkerboard black and red a few steps up into the fiction, 'main room' section. Faux black marble arches over many of the doorways both evoke and mock classical whatever. White walls do not interfere with affixed posters and their messages. Merely reading what's on them elicits a sense of time past and present. The 'VIETATO FUMARE' no-smoking sign on one of the doors upstairs harks back to the neighborhood's Italian heritage, while the 'STASH YOUR SELL-PHONE AND BE HERE NOW' admonition, to the right inside the entrance, shouts 'today.'

Oak stairs lead down into the cellar's load of books. The playbills and notes tacked to the wood plank walls to the right and left, remind me of my conversation with June Osterberg, a longtime resident in North Beach, who has so graciously shared her memories. It was always a hangout for her and everyone else and, early on, even a box of tacks was provided for the postings. She likes to remember the late evenings when she and Bob were not ready to return home, and

they would stop off to browse. She would often beeline toward the 'Theatre' section because at that time she was really into the playwrights of the 50's. The books were cheap since they were paperbacks and so many of them still sit in their places on her bookshelf, where they will stay.

Old bricks with the years recorded in salt and lime form the bottom wall to the left of the stairs, highlighted, where they end, by a niche with the words 'Stolen Continents' painted above, referring to the books one finds on the shelves below about colonialism. Actually, a plethora of categories, divided and subdivided, encourages burrowing deeper and deeper into the world of ideas.

At the reference section my eyes glanced across the titles and stopped on a pair of books, thick volumes, same title, but if not identical twins, surely sisters, one more used than the other. A reference book is a reference book is a reference book, especially when one can peruse it, use it and not buy it. A Women's Thesaurus: very used, very useful at City Lights Bookstore. I remembered the descriptive sign in the window facing the corner of Columbus Avenue and Kerouac Alley: 'A KIND OF LIBRARY WHERE BOOKS ARE SOLD.'

I noted the ebb and flow of people around me. Often they were tourists not speaking English. At times I was alone. Sometimes two or three of us combed the stacks. Upstairs in the Poetry/Beat Poets room, I found myself in the company of eight others. I'd like to have struck up a conversation with someone, but each seemed immersed in his or her own reading. I would have had to break the silence and change the mood. I decided to forgo the interviews.

I reached for various Lawrence Ferlinghetti collections and read a few poems with his rivers winding, running, flashing, moving, always moving. City Lights Bookstore is poet Ferlinghetti's gift of light and I discovered that his poems put me quietly there in a boat floating on one of his rivers of light, moving, flashing toward . . . "that world without walls."

Fog Hill Market

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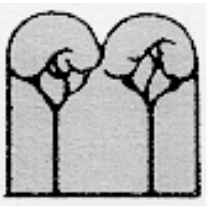

RIVERS OF LIGHT
By Lawrence Ferlinghetti

My mind is racing
in the middle of the night
My mind races
through the darkness
around the world
Toward a tunnel of light

It races through
the night of Prague
through Staroma'k Square
with its Jan Hus sculpture
reading "Love Each Other
And the Truth Will Triumph"
It races on
through the night streets
Across the Charles Bridge
across the river
at the heart of Prague
Across the rivers of the world
Across the Rhine
Across the Rhone
Across the Seine
Across the Thames
Across Atlantic
Across Manhattan
Across great Hudson
into the heart of America
My heart is racing now
Across America
Across Ole Man River rollin' along
Where is the light

My heart is racing now
Across terrific Pacific
Across the River of Yellow Light
of Sun Yat Sen
Across Gandhi's Ganges
Across Euphrates
Across the Nile
Across the Hellespont
Across Tiber
Across Arno
Across Dante's River Styx
through the medieval darkness

Into the heart of the tunnel of light

My heart and mind
are racing now
together
on the same beat
to the same music
It's not the of *Carmina Burana*
It's the music of *Don Giovanni*
It's Mozart's *Horn Concerto*
It's the *Yellow Submarine*
Yellow Submarine
Yellow Submarine
There is a sign in the light
at the end of the tunnel
I am trying to read it
We are all
trying to read it

Dark figures dance in it
in the half-darkness
Light figures dance in it
in the half-light

Lawrence Ferlinghetti
Writ in Prague April '98

Reprinted by permission of the author.

Bulletin Board

Oral History Project needs a volunteer photographer with a digital camera and a couple of hours a month to photograph the narrators who are sharing their stories. In addition, we need someone with word processing skills to transcribe audiotapes. Please call Audrey at 391-1792.

Want to start a book club? Find a neighbor who shares a special interest? We invite you to use our Bulletin Board for any non-commercial neighborhood messages.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Editor's Note: Although this letter was sent to the THD Web site, instead of to The Semaphore, all who read it were so charmed that we decided it was Semaphore material. We are hoping that in the next issue, this space will include some local letters. Tell us how you feel about issues, THD policies, or The Semaphore. We are interested.

Sean O'Donnell
Handyman

"Anything can be fixed
except a fallen soufflé."

30 years experience.
Local & neighborhood references.

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since 1982

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Dear THD,

Thank you for your efforts to protect Telegraph Hill from the tide of urban development. It is one of my favorite places to visit in the whole world.

Reading your Web site, I realize that I should not have taken for granted that Telegraph Hill will retain its character without a great deal of community effort.

I think I have visited Telegraph Hill only four times since I was introduced to it in 1976. But it remains a destination on the occasions when I visit the City. I love to climb the hills and discover new staircases and paths. The second time I explored your neighborhood, (1978 I think), I discovered the apartment building featured in the Bogey/Bacall film, Dark Passage.

Some days, I think how easy it would be to skip work and drive to the airport, catch a plane and in a few hours be admiring the view from the park. One thing I know, I will visit again.

And thanks to your organization, I will probably find the Telegraph Hill that I expect and hope to find. I promise to be quiet, discreet and respectful and leave the your home as I find it.

Paul Robison
Seattle

Roses From Heaven

By Rozell Overmire

Last April, Virginia Anderlini wrote a note to the THD membership chairman with her renewal for *The Semaphore* asking for help getting a broken water pipe at the 300 Filbert gardens repaired. Her husband, Andy, who is 9l, "has been buying rose plants and raising beautiful roses for about 50 years." Without city water, it was costing him about $50 a month, using water from his own tap. They had tried everyone: "Park and Rec., Dept. of Public Works, Urban Forestry, and letters to the Mayor" to get the pipe fixed, all to no avail. Everyone who lives on or visits our hill has enjoyed these lovely roses across from the Dalla Torre restaurant. They are part of the joy of living on this hill. I visit them often and feel like they are a miniature rose garden from Golden Gate Park, transported here so this side of the city has roses too. On September 26, 1993, the *Independent* published an article about the Anderlini rose garden, saying the Anderlinis had been honored by San Francisco Beautiful, a nonprofit group, as "having one of the most beautiful homes in the city."

I brought the problem to the THD Board and they responded immediately with a donation of $250. Several Board members also pitched in with donations and we gave the Anderlinis back some of the "water" money they had lost.

Then we tackled the bureaucracy. I wrote several neighbors, other Board members, and contacted city officials. Finally, months later a plumber was promised to investigate the Filbert Street water line. We are told by Alex Mamak at the Dept. of Public Works that an irrigation system will be installed Sept. 5 and will be completed Sept. 15. We can only cross our fingers at this point and hope it will happen.

As an off-shoot of this, we have started an Oral History on the Anderlinis, which will be available in the Public Library one day soon.

Andy is concerned about the fate of the roses when he is no longer able to tend them. He wants to model his garden on the Maria Pimentel garden, which has a group dedicated to its care. Another idea for the THD organization to explore.

42nd Street Moon Moves to the Neighborhood

42nd Street Moon, the company that produces lost (or rarely produced) musicals as staged concerts, has moved to the Eureka Theater in the Golden Gateway, at 215 Jackson. If you've seen their shows at the New Conservatory Theater on Van Ness, you know how delightful they are.

Their current season will close with two shows this fall. "Dear World," a musical version of "The Mad Woman of Chaillot" runs from September 6-24, and Rogers and Hart's "I Married an Angel" runs from November 29 through December 23. Performances are at 8 p.m. Thursdays and Fridays and 6 p.m. Saturday, with two performances Sundays, 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. Tickets are an affordable $25, with a senior discount available.

Earlier productions include "Sweet Adeline," "Call Me Madam," "Girl Crazy," and "Silk Stockings."

Now's the Time to Become a NERT

Neighborhood Emergency Response Team (NERT) training is tentatively scheduled in the Presidio, starting Saturday, September 23. The class site had not been determined when this issue of the Semaphore went to press.

The series of six free 2-hour classes will teach you how to deal with emergencies — how to prepare, what to do and what not to do in the first crucial 72 hours or so when help will be scarce.

If you've been putting this off because evening classes were inconvenient, these Saturday morning classes are just the thing. If you do miss a class, you can make it up any time (and anywhere in the City) the training is given.

So, call NERT Coordinator Patty Yuen at 558-3456 to sign up!

Is this your
last Semaphore?

If the mailing label is dated Sept. 1, 2000 or earlier, your membership has lapsed and we hope you'll rectify that situation with a check. If you think our records are incorrect or you are in doubt about your membership status, please contact Membership Chair, Rozell Overmire, phone 989-3945. E-mail rozell@overmire.com.

SHEILA TOBIN BLACK, Ph.D.

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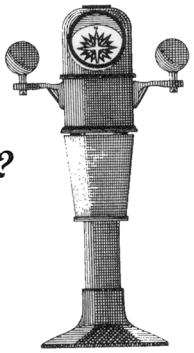

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Who's Going to Win A Million Euros?

By Patricia Cady

The winner of a contest that has nothing to do with answering questions on a TV show will be a genius whose life's work will set the world on its ear. Finland will present its first million euro prize, the Millennium Award, to the world's most brilliant person and/or organization whose project combines high-tech achievements with human values to create a better world.

The Millennium Award is the brainchild of a member of Telegraph Hill Dwellers, Arthur J. Collingsworth, who proposed the idea to his friend, the Prime Minister of Finland, who guided the concept to fruition. Norway awards a Peace prize; Sweden, its Nobel awards. Now, Finland? Arthur explains.

"The Finns have overcome tough obstacles set by location, history and climate. Finland is the only part of the old Russian empire that has been able to successfully develop itself into an independent state." He believes that "honesty, sincerity and authenticity—real values, are still valid there." When the first award is presented in December, Arthur will be part of the ceremony.

Arthur Collingsworth joined THD when he moved to the Hill in 1997. A small-town boy from Jackson, Michigan, his degrees in Political Science, combined with a 6-year stint with the United Nations in Tokyo and London, resulted in a colorful international career as an educational consultant to governments around the world, including as an executive with Youth for Understanding—the world's largest high school student exchange organization. Coincidentally, one of this year's scholarships was awarded to the daughter of a THD member who met Arthur for the first time at April's THD dinner meeting—neither of them made the connection until days later.

Many Dwellers know Arthur—he involved himself in local activities as soon as he moved to the neighborhood. A collector, he bid successfully for an original Stackpole drawing at a fundraiser auction held to benefit the Pioneer Park restoration project. A devoted reader, he had the pleasure of introducing Lawrence Ferlinghetti to the Foreign Minister of Czechoslovakia, who was a guest in Arthur's showplace Telegraph Hill penthouse where he lives half the year. The other six months he spends in Europe—a castle in Scotland for several years, lately Prague, where he and his partner, Brian Simmons, are restoring a home near the Old Town Square.

A lifetime traveler whose friends are world leaders, Arthur is a down-to-earth, humorous Dweller who tells wonderful stories. When he's in town, look for him at a THD dinner meeting. He'll be glad to tell you who won the million euro prize at the first Millennium Award presentation.

BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE REPORT

By Jan Holloway

We are meeting monthly—so far we don't have a regular time scheduled—and are poring through the myriad of issues suggested to us, trying to determine which projects to target. We will continue giving awards commending the outstanding people and beautiful places in our neighborhood, beginning with the next THD dinner meeting. We welcome your calls and concerns about graffiti, garbage and general litter in our neighborhood. We want to find out if your complaint calls to appropriate agencies are being recognized and handled in a timely manner. Please contact Jan Holloway by phone at 398-2055 or email at janh@sirius.com or by fax at 398-2021 to JOIN US or report on your complaint calls.

We Remember...

George Rockrise. A longtime THD member, he resided on the Hill during most of his 60-year career as an architect, landscape architect and urban planner who was appointed by three mayors to San Francisco planning and arts commissions. "He was one of the leaders of the modern California movement in architecture," said Jim Chappell, president of the San Francisco Planning and Urban Research Association.

Many THD members worked with George in the 1960s when he led and won a tough fight to prevent the construction of a freeway above Telegraph Hill. A gracious local hero, he prepared urban design plans for San Francisco's waterfront and Civic Center.

Among numerous honors and awards, he received the SPUR award in 1995 for his dedication to "enhancing the quality of life and economic vitality" in San Francisco. Every time we look up and don't see a freeway, we can thank George Rockrise for his vision and love of place.

On Considering the Loss of a Neighbor

By Rod Freebairn-Smith and Janet Crane

There can be so many stories—from gardening, to enjoying and raising children, to a whole life, or just saying "hi" over the fence—that we sometimes forget the broad dimensions of members of this exceptional community.

George Rockrise, a prominent architect and landscape architect who lived for many years with his family on Vallejo near Kearny, died in July. A Fulbright Scholar, George worked on a local, national, and international scale, and worked with good effect for San Francisco and Telegraph Hill.

He served on the THD Board of Directors, the San Francisco Planning Commission and Arts Commission, and was an advisor to HUD for the nation's housing programs. He held numerous academic posts and served as a consultant to the State Department on diplomatic facilities. He led the efforts of massive philanthropic foundations to extend architecture education and professional opportunities to African Americans and Spanish-speaking Americans, and lectured in Spanish on architecture throughout the world. Even in retirement, George went right on with work of social importance, helping a program of vineyard workers' affordable housing get underway.

When his children, Peter and Christina, married and moved away from Telegraph Hill, the 400 block on Vallejo lost a long shared and much enjoyed family story: their growing up, their education, their young romances. Later, in the '90s, George and his wife Anneliese retired from the Hill to sun and tennis in Sonoma's Glen Ellen. That move closed the chapter of the Rockrise family's daily involvement in Telegraph Hill, but there is so much to be remembered of their story.

We now reflect on George's good, strong life, his accomplishments as a father, his service to the Hill Dwellers and his prominence in his field. He was at times a softhearted grump; at others, he was the careful listener and advisor, and a mentor for an impressive list of young planners and architects.

If famously outspoken, George was also a sensitive designer, recognized at an early age among Northern California's post-war young

architects. Already well established as a romantic modern architect by the 1950s, he was a raconteur, well able to persuade others to the cause of thoughtful town and building design.

Speaking for his partners in the North Beach firm, ROMA, Bob Odermatt recalled the intensity and effort that built today's popular and successful firm, and noted that George and the firm have received the recognition of their profession and many of its highest awards.

A moving farewell for George was celebrated on July 22 in a graceful hall he designed for a winery near Santa Rosa. George still worked through his final years and his illness with the sensitive support of Annaliese. Many of the eulogies included thanks for her exceptional devotion and care. Telegraph Hill greatly misses the Rockrise family. We share their loss of George with heartfelt condolences.

Remembering Thomas "Lucky" Burton

By Marge Savo

If you happened to walk by St. Luke's Episcopal Church on June 24th, I am sure you would have been surprised to hear a Texas-style guitar twanging and the congregation singing "Don't Fence Me In" and "Ghostriders in the Sky." We were celebrating the life of Thomas "Lucky" Burton, who died June 19th. Of course, the more traditional Christian hymns were sung. And since Lucky had been an Air Force pilot in World War II, he was honored with the ceremony of the Presentation of the Colors.

Ruth and Lucky Burton have been members of the Telegraph Hill Dwellers since the mid-80s. Lucky always enjoyed attending the dinners because he liked to communicate with people. He had such a probing and alert mind.

Lucky really liked living on the Hill. He had a huge telescope in the living room at 1360 Montgomery, where he kept watch on the boats passing by. As Lucky became ill in the last years of his life, he still delighted in trudging up to Coit Tower for his daily exercise. I understand he would sometimes slide down the banisters on the way back.

His greatest joy was sailing; he had a sailboat he called "Loveboat," much to the chagrin of his family. On the days when he was not sailing, he would jump on his bicycle and spend the day tinkering on his boat. When you sailed with Lucky, you knew he was the captain of his ship. Before we sailed, we all had to be at attention and listen to his instructions on how to take care of ourselves on a sailboat. It was for our own safety, of course.

Another passion he had was singing. Even as his memory dimmed, he could still remember all the words to songs from years ago. I remember when he, Ruth, and I were touring France. Lucky thought it would be a good idea if the group on the bus would have a singalong. He painstakingly wrote down all the words to a song and passed it on to the tour director.

Lucky is survived by his wife Ruth, four children, six grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren. He truly was a gentle man and a gentleman. I am honored to call him my friend.

Memorial contributions may be made to Alzheimer's Association, 2065 West El Camino Real, Suite C, Mountain View, CA 94040.

CarShare Comes to North Beach

If all goes well, CarShare will start operations this fall in North Beach, and you'll have an opportunity to enjoy the advantages of owning a car, without the problem of parking one.

If funding materializes on schedule, CarShare will host a meeting in the neighborhood this month to introduce the concept. The plan is to have a variety of cars available for different purposes at a local garage or parking lot.

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You can use a minivan for a camping trip, or a VW for grocery shopping.

Here are the tentative costs: You pay a $300 fully refundable deposit, a $10 monthly fee, $.45 per mile, including gas, and $1.75 per hour (capped at 10 hours per day).

How does it work? Call or go online to reserve a car at the local garage. Use your key card to open the car, and enter your pin number in the on-board computer. The computer tracks your time and mileage, and you'll receive a bill at the end of the month.

For information, check out the Web site, *www.sfcarshare.org*, or call Elizabeth Sullivan at 255-2530.

Food Runners Needs Your Help — and Your Leftovers

If you've got a spare hour every week and a car, you can do your bit to feed San Francisco's hungry. Food Runners, the volunteers organized by Mary Risley of Tante Marie's Cooking School, pick up leftover food from restaurants and deliver it to homeless shelters, childcare centers, and other agencies.

You can pick up food at the same time and place every week and deliver it to a prearranged place. Or, you can be "on call" — let Food Runners know when you're available, and they'll call you to make a pickup and delivery that day.

Food Runners also needs food donors — restaurants, hotels, bakeries, caterers— anyone who is likely to have food left over.

To volunteer or to donate food, call 929-1866.

Cold Noses, Warm Hearts

Notes on the Feathered, Furred, and Scaled Residents of Telegraph Hill

By Cheryl Bentley

Okay, to those of you who have listened (or pretended to listen) to my stories about the genius qualities of Crackers, my cockatiel roomie, I promise this is not a column about Crackers. It is, however, an effort to include animals, who, along with kids, are often under-represented in *The Semaphore*.

Perhaps I can be forgiven for my fascination with Crackers. Anyone who has had a pet parrot or observed parrots in the wild can attest to the great intelligence of these birds. Dr. Irene Pepperberg of M.I.T. is currently designing interactive software for pet African gray parrots. Visit *http://www.media.mit.edu/benres/parrot/index.html* for more information. Alex, an African grey she has worked with, is able to recognize same/different, count up to six objects, and identify various textures.

On the homefront, watch for some of Alex's wild cousins, the chubby, all-green babies of our cherry-headed conure flock. They make their debuts in September, ready for life in the open after having lived their first few months in nesting cavities. Staying close to Mom and Dad during the first few months after joining the flock, they are proficient little beggars, making themselves look pitiful when hungry and announcing their needs in a special I-am-starving cry. For almost daily updates on the flock, check out the parrots' Web site at *www.wildparrots.com*.

In other avian news, thanks to legislation sponsored by Supervisor Mark Leno, San Francisco's most animal-friendly Supe, it is now legal to feed wild birds (except pigeons). But keep in mind that birds are delicate. An outbreak of salmonella killing many Lake Tahoe birds has been attributed to dirty bird feeders. So keep your feeder clean by sterilizing it weekly with bleach and water and make sure that you throw away wet, moldy seed immediately,

If feeders are too messy, you might try setting out shallow dishes of very clean water for the birds to drink and bathe in. My water bowls are so popular that I must refill them several times a day. The birds take great delight in their baths, but I suspect it is I who benefit more, from the sheer enjoyment of having these creatures in my life.

In the next issue you can read about a dog who accompanies his guardian to work and a cat who waits for the mail. If you know of a special animal, please call me at 392-4081, or e-mail me at cheryl@slip.net.

As for the children, Cathy Cormier has promised to write on the kids scene for the next *Semaphore*.

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Life After the *North Beach Journal*

By Chris O'Connell and Mary Macpherson

We just logged onto *www.wildparrots.com* to see what the birds of Telegraph Hill were up to, and we were interested to see a little bit about the "now defunct" *North Beach Journal*. It was the first time we've seen our paper referred to as deceased, and it stung.

We never said goodbye in the paper, because we were hoping it would be resurrected someday. But when we were asked to write about what we're doing now and a little about our stint in newspaper publishing, we thought it would be a great way to reach those of you who may wonder what happened to the *Journal*.

We were overwhelmed with support soon after we started publishing the paper in February 1999. We were moved by the warm welcome the Hill Dwellers gave Mary when she spoke about the *Journal at La Bodega*. People volunteered to write, take pictures, do layout and even distribute the paper for us. There was a great turnout at a weekend meeting Mary Nelson called to get volunteers to keep various sections of North Beach stocked with the paper.

That's one reason it was so hard for us to let it go. And although the financial end was starting to fall into place, it was too late to make the paper our sole endeavor. More importantly, we were sacrificing too much family time with our two small children. Many of you pitched in to keep us afloat, and we thank you. You'll never know how much a single phone call or hours and hours of volunteer time meant to us. The paper survived longer than it should have because of you. We're holding out hope that we'll resume someday. One thing that became clear through all of this was that the paper was much larger than us—it was about the people, the stories, the history and the plain old news of the neighborhood. It was like a thought waiting to be expressed.

We really miss the paper, the people, and what could have been. But maybe in a few years when things settle down on the home front (like when both kids are out of diapers and in school), we can try again. We hope we'll still be in the neighborhood. We'll never forget, though, the amazing people we got to know because of the *Journal*. We'll never regret this last year.

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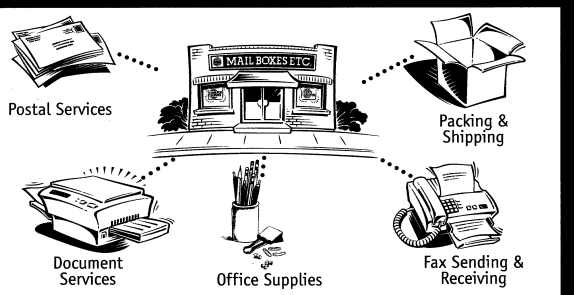

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Pier 45: Theme Park or a Center for Learning?

By the Bay Center Coalition

On November 7, San Franciscans will head to the polls to make one of the most crucial decisions facing the future of San Francisco —what to do at Pier 45. Pier 45 is the last major piece of land at Fisherman's Wharf and it's our last chance to reclaim this area for Bay Area natives.

Because this issue is so important, Supervisors Newsom, Leno, Ammiano, and Bierman have placed a Declaration of Policy regarding Pier 45 on the November ballot. Very simply, the Declaration of Policy states that it "shall be the policy of the People of the City and County of San Francisco to create a non-profit public use facility operated by an independent 501 (c)(3) at Pier 45 to bring San Franciscans back to our waterfront and help maintain traditional maritime activities and employment by creating an interpretative educational public use facility, at Pier 45's Shed A, without using tax subsidies from the City and County of San Francisco."

Future generations will either enjoy a waterfront that educates and celebrates the Bay, its Delta, and its Pacific Ocean sanctuaries through state-of-the-art exhibits, resource archives, educational programs, and public forums—a proposal being put forth by the non-profit Bay Center. Or we will have a for-profit interactive history museum equipped with a Volkswagen tram taking you through the history of San Francisco as you travel by a re-creation of Haight-Ashbury and the Golden Gate Bridge—the plan put forth by the Cleveland-based Malrite Corporation.

We have a unique opportunity to educate and inspire generations to learn more about the Bay and Delta marine environment and encourage active participation in the conservation and preservation of ecology, while supporting the local fishing industry. An educational and entertaining Bay Center would complement the San Francisco waterfront enhancing what already exists at Pier 39 rather than replicating it.

In the coming weeks, a large public relations campaign will be launched by proponents of the San Francisco Interactive History Museum, the Malrite Corporation's proposal. The campaign has already started with a glossy brochure and the renaming of the project from the San Francisco at the Wharf to the San Francisco Interactive History Museum. The project sponsors will claim to have the support of the California Academy of Sciences, which only agreed to provide consultation services for a particular aspect of the project; the Academy in fact has endorsed the Bay Center project.

The bottom line is that Malrite's proposal is a profit-based retail entertainment center that will not serve the needs of San Franciscans. And being profit-based means that the integrity of the "museum" will be dependent upon profit margins, not history. And do we really want a Cleveland-based, for-profit corporation interpreting San Francisco history for us? On November 7, the choice is yours.

Editor's Note: The THD Board of Directors has unanimously endorsed the non-profit Bay Center project.

THD Board Resolutions

May: The Board agreed to put off consideration of a proposed City Charter amendment advocated by Carmen Ramirez, president of the San Francisco Neighborhood Alliance for Political Awareness, until the amendment qualifies for the ballot. Among the provisions in the proposed amendment are a five-year residency requirement for appointment to a city commission, a ban on city employees serving as city commissioners, and a requirement that mayoral appointments to commissions be subject to a two-thirds vote of the Board of Supervisors. The Board also agreed to register its opposition to the proposed project at 22-30 Alta.

June: The Board agreed to publish an updated version of David Myrick's *San Francisco's Telegraph Hill.* It also agreed to contribute $250 to the owners of 300 Filbert for the money they have used from their own funds to water the beautiful roses enjoyed by countless Hill residents for years on the city-owned lot next to their own property. For the past eight months the city has failed to repair a broken water pipe supplying water to the garden, forcing the 300 Filbert residents to supply water billed on their personal account.

July: There was no board meeting in July.

Classified Ads

Did you know *The Semaphore* takes classified ads? Our rates are $20 for a 4-line and $30 for 5 to 7 lines. Call 392-4081 to place an ad.

THD Welcomes New Members

New THD members include: Paul Andreson & Jean Steyaert, David & Natasha Ansted, Charles Boris, Scott Cunningham, Helen Smelser Daube, Debbie Deal, Donald du Bain, Glennie Eisele, Jeffrey Fell, W. D. Flient, Jianna Restaurant, Bob Jensen, P. J. Johnston, Polly Johnstone, Little Bubbles Laundramat, Dan Maggiora, Charles & Robyn Massey, Kimberly Mathei, Paula Morrow, Ryan Nichols, Charlene & Fritz Olrich, Barbara Owens, Ben & Rachel Parco, Robin & Simon Patfield, Gilbert Pearson, Barbara Petrie, Ramona (Twin Peaks Council), John W. H. Roberts, Susan Stauter, Kira Steifman, Holli Their, Steve Thomas & William Anderson, Pamela Uberti, Christiaan Vanderstaay, Eric & Wickie Vieler, Grace Ann Walden, and Paul Weaver.

For a Voice in Your Neighborhood Join Telegraph Hill Dwellers.

NEW MEMBER INFORMATION

Sign Up or Sign a Friend Up as a member of Telegraph Hill Dwellers.

Complete and mail to THD, PO Box 330159, SF, CA 94133

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

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CHECK ENCLOSED FOR 1-YEAR MEMBERSHIP

Single $25 ____ Family $40 ____ Senior $15 ____

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THD COMMITTEES NEED YOU

You can make a difference! Join one of THD's committees, meet and work with your fellow Hill Dwellers to improve life on the Hill.

STANDING COMMITTEES

Parking and Transportation. Chair, Howard Wong, 982-5055. Promotes efforts to ease congestion, optimize white zones, upgrade public transportation. Works with Department of Parking and Traffic.

Planning and Zoning. Chair Nancy Shanahan, 986-7094. Monitors and reviews proposed development projects for consistency with applicable City ordinances. Works with Planning Department staff and represents THD before the Landmarks Board, Planning Commission, Zoning Administrator and other regulating bodies to protect historic resources and maintain neighborhood character. Assists members to learn more about and participate in planning and zoning issues.

***Semaphore*.** Editor Cheryl Bentley, 392-4081. The editor and staff produce a quarterly magazine for THD members.

Program. Chair Pat Swan, 788-7926. Arranges social events, including quarterly membership meetings and get-acquainted social functions.

Budget. Maya Armour, 986-1474. As prescribed in bylaws for Treasurer.

Membership. Chair Rozell Overmire, 989-3945. As prescribed in bylaws for Financial Secretary.

SPECIAL COMMITTEES AND PROJECTS

Parks and Trees. Chair Julie Christensen, 552-7774. email julie@surfaces.com. Information and projects concerning local parks, green spaces and street trees.

Neighborhood Beautification Jan Holloway, 398-2055. Creates opportunities to improve, beautify, and preserve the Hill. Through its awards program, recognizes individuals and businesses who enhance our neighborhood. Facilitates cleanup, gardening and graffiti removal.

Oral History Project Chair Audrey Tomaselli, 391-1792. Taped interviews provide historical documentation of living and working in the neighborhood.

Pioneer Park Improvement Project. Chair Howard Wong, 982-5055. Work party volunteers enhance the open space around Coit Tower, improving accessibility and safety through planning, landscaping work parties and fundraising.

THD Web Page. Webmaster Peter Overmire, 989-3945. Shared information about meetings, local concerns and events.

LIAISONS WITH OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

Coalition for San Francisco Neighborhoods. Representative Gerry Crowley, 781-4201. Citywide organization interacts with other neighborhoods to discuss common problems.

N.E.R.T. June Fraps, 392-1187. Energizes members to take emergency disaster response training program sponsored by the City.

WEB SITE = www.thd.org

That's Us! Pete Overmire (989-3945), a longtime THDer and former officer has set up this site for Telegraph Hill Dwellers. Access it to see the sensational look he has created, impressive to local and international browsers alike. Lend him photographs and graphics relevant to the Hill that he can scan in. Call or e-mail information about upcoming meetings in the neighborhood and at City agencies, and ideas and concerns you want the rest of us to know about between Semaphores.

KAYE WOODS

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THD CALENDAR

2nd Saturday Stair & Garden Work Parties, September 9, October 14, November 11, December 9. Meet at Pioneer Park. For more information call 552-7774.

Schedules of Committee Meetings

PLANNING & ZONING: Last Wednesdays. Call for time and location. 986-7070.

PARKING & TRANSPORTATION: 2nd Saturdays at 11 AM at Little City Restaurant, Union and Powell Streets.

For more information, log on to http://www.thd.org

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